linkages/sponsorships. Option of import of coal is also now available.

Steps to check exploitation of Child Labourer

754. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children employed as child labourers and how many of them are in hazardous occupations;

(b) occupations in which they are mostly employed;

(c) whether they are properly paid or are exploited by the employers;

(d) if so, steps Government intend to take to check exploitation;

(e) steps Government propose to take to provide healthy environment at service place to provide educational facilities, job security and health services; and

(f) whether Government have plans to check child labour, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As per 1981 Census, India has a Child Labour population of 13.65 million. However, as per 43rd Round of the National Sample Survey, 1987 the number of child labour is estimated at 17.02 million. The 1991 Census data is yet to be released. While occupation-wise number of child labour is not available, it is estimated that the number of children working in hazardous occupations is around 2.00 million.

(c) to (f) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in specific occupations and processes contained in parts A & B of the Schedule to Section 3 of the Act. In occupation where employment of children is not prohibited, the Act provides for various reliefs to the working children. Enforcement machinery at the Central & State level exists to enforce the provisions of the Act. Employers are liable to be prosecuted for violations of the provisions of the Act. Government of India monitors the enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. Government is presently engaged in implementing a programme under the National Child Labour Project Scheme to progressively remove 2 million children working in hazardous occupations and rehabilitate them through education and by providing them with nutrition, health care and monthly stipends. Presently around 1.5 lakh children are being covered through 76 projects in the 11 most child labour endemic States of the country. Apart from this, a massive awareness generation compaign has also been launched to sensitize the society against the practice of child labour at the national and regional levels. In addition, 133 districts have been funded to carry out awareness generation compaigns against the practice of child labour.

123 districts have also been sanctioned funds to conduct surveys to identify child labour hazard intensity wise for priority coverage of the worst affected children.

Decrease in export of marine products

755. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that marine product exports have declined during 1995-96 as compared to the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the subsidy schemes like HSD Oil subsidy extended to deep sea fishing vessels for export is withdrawn; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and